

THE REHEARSAL

Of the Ministry. And the Revolution.

From Saturday August the 12th to Saturday August the 19th, 1704.

Country-m. I Am as Proud of my New Post, Master Observator, as you are of yours.

Obs. What Post hast thou got? Honest Country-man.

Country-m. Since thou wert made the Publick Vindicator of the Revolution, the Town (I will not be so Prophane and Conceited as Thou art, to put it upon Providence) has made me Thy Rehearsal. Is not that thy Secretary, Master, or something like it? And thou being now a Publick Minister, if not of Providence, yet of Legion, of our Sovereign Lord the People, then I am Secretary of State, am I not? And henceforth I must Counter-sign thy Observators, and be Answerable for them.

But I begin in an ill time. For thy last Wensday's Observator, Aug. 9. is Laugh'd at all over the Town, and Despis'd by our own Friends. For want of Sense thou art gone to Rhime. And thy Verses are such Doggrel, and full of Naughtiness, as turns every bodies Stomach. Therefore I'll go back to thy former Observators. And we'll Talk a little of the subject of the Ministry we were last upon.

Obs. I wou'd have thee well Instructed in that Point, because it is of great Consequence. Know then, That the Tories and High flyers call the King (or Queen) the Minister of God, and as such, Accountable only to God. And all that have Commission from the King, they call the KING's Ministers. And these are they whom they mean by the Ministry, and so Include not the King under that Denomination, but those only who are put in Authority under Him.

But on the other hand, We Whiggs (now Country-man take notice) do Include the King (or Queen) under the Name of the Ministry, as being set up and made by the People, and so are Ministers of the People, and Accountable to them, for their Male Administrations; to be Depos'd and even Executed by them, as any other common Malefactor. And the King (or Queen) is likewise Answerable for all those Ministers whom He (or She) Employs under Him (or Her). Therefore when we Blacken and Defame the Ministry, it is a Direct Attacking of Him (or Her) who Employs them. By this Method we carry'd our Ends against K. Char. I. and K. Jam. II. And hope to carry them on still. Besides, my dear Country-man, the Ministry being the Life and Soul of the Government, without which the Government is Dead, and nothing but a Word, for what Government is it that is not Administred? And how can it be Administred without a Ministry? Therefore when I still keep to my old Distinction betwixt the GOVERNMENT and MINISTRY of ENGLAND,

as I told thee; this is parting of Soul and Body, which we call Death. And it is a direct Dissolution of the Government. But these Dunder-heads do not see it. I'll tell thee Country-man, I'll undertake as Silly a Fellow as I am, to Break any Government in the World, if they'll give me Leave to Blacken and Asperse the Ministry, as Publickly and Bravely as I do in England. To tell them, as I do in my Observator of last March 11. 1703. I am Ready to Answer in Court to any Indictment, where I expect to have fair Play, and not be Condemned without being Heard: Which will be the Practice of our Courts of Justice, as long as our present Judges are in Being.

Then to fall upon our Admirals and Generals, and Name them by Name, as I do Sir George Rook in many of my Observators, even in my last of Aug. 16. and Represent him in most Scandalous manner.

And to say of Another great General, as I do in my Observator of May 13. 1704. It has been my fortune to be in a Fighting Army, under a General that we now dearly want, who did not use to Return from the War, SINCE CLADE VICTOR; And then Ride in Triumph over his Queen in a Medal.

O Dear Liberty and Property! Who wou'd Live in a Country where he cou'd be Restraine'd from this?

In short Country-man, we will have none that are for the Church to be either Judges or Generals, or Admirals, or in any other Office, either Ecclesiastical, Civil, or Military. We'll Talk them out, we'll Rail them out; we'll Observator them All. We can make one an Hero, for being always Beaten, if he be on our side. And let the others Fight or not Fight, we'll be at 'em. In mine of Saturday last. Aug. 12. I was upon the Admiralty again and the whole Management of our Sea Affairs: I name, The Return of the THOLOUN Squadron, the Affairs of PONTI, the late Inglorious Action of GRAYDON, the Treachery at CAMARET, with many other like Instances. Then I bring my Charge Home upon the Government, That the Actors in those Dishonourable Scenes have been so slightly Punish'd. This will stir up the Mobb, to think all Wrong at Court. And you know the next things is, to think of a Remedy.

That Bull-Dog of Cassandra has Chas'd me from one to another, till he brought me (Part 2. p. 17.) where I fall foul upon his Royal Highness the Prince himself, and tell him plainly, That the Highest Office in England, is not above the Law of England. And that the Laws of England were made to Detect and

and Punish Offenders. This put me a little *Agast*, But I was *Clapp'd* on the *Back*, and bid *Stand* to it. That *I* had a *Party* wou'd stand by me, who had Greater *Work* than this for me to do. And so I did. And Answer'd boldly in my *Observator* of last *July* 19. That as to the Charge of *no Justice* being done by the *Prince* or his *Council*, for the *Publick Safety*, but the *Guilty Persons* still *Comini'd* to be *Employ'd*, notwithstanding the *Proofs* made of their *Embezelmets* of the *Stores*, &c. I Answer, That it is matter of *Fact*, which I am ready to Prove in *Open Court*, if I am Prosecuted for so saying; As it has already been Prov'd before the *Right Honourable the House of Lords*.

Country-m. And had you no *Justice* there neither? Is not this a sort of an *Accusation* against the *Justice* of the *Lords* too? Why did you not go to my *Queen*? I am sure she wou'd have done you *Justice*.

Obj. I have told thee often, That the *Crown* it self is but an *Office*, like that of the *Lord Mayor* or *Sheriffs*; which is the Reason I give in my *Observator* (Vol. 2. N. 25) That the *Regal Dignity* can never be *Hereditary*. And being but an *Office* you know, The *Highest Office* in *England*, is not above the *Law* of *England*, &c. as I apply'd it to the *Prince*. And it is *Her Office*, not *His*, that is the *Highest Office* in *England*. And I told thee last time we Met, That I owe her no more *Respect* than according to the *Law*.

Country-m. O Ho! I now begin to *Smell a Rat*! Now I'll be upon thy *Bones*, in behalf of my Dear *Queen*, for all thy *French*. Thou say'st thy *Loyalty* is limited by *Law*. And thou wilt give no *More*. Wilt thou give as *Much* then? And we shall Agree. Wilt thou own those *Acts of Parliament* Quoted in my last, That there is no *Coercive Power* over my *Queen*, either in *Lords*, *Commons*, or the *People*? That none of them, nor All together have any *Legislative Power* without the *Queen*? Or, wilt thou say, That this is not *Law*? That these *Acts of Parliament* are not still in *Force*? Or, That an *Act of Parliament* is not *Law*? Thou art *Pegg'd* down, *Bays*, Thou must Answer *Directly* to these things. They are plain *Questions*. And thy *Loy* and *Loyalty* will not help thee. If thou *Shuffle*, or give a *Cart-load* of *Names*, it will but make the more *Ridiculous*. And I'll tell thee, not only I my self, but all my Honest *Country-men*, who have been so long led by the *Nose* by Thee, will *Quit* thee, for a *Scoundrel*, who *Can't Talk* and *Rave* at *Random*, but *Knows* nothing, nor *Can't Answer* to any thing. Thou hast *Appeal'd* to the *Law*. Let the *Law* then be *Judge*. If thou *Can't* not *Answer* to these *Acts of Parliament* here Objected, thou art *Gon*! *Gon*! As *Dead* as a *Herring*. And the *Law* which thou hast *Abus'd* may take *Hold* on thee, Tho' thou think'st that there will be no *Righteous Proceedings* in any of our *Courts of Justice*, as long as our present *Judges* are in *Being*. Thou wast then out of their *Clutches*. And thought'st it wou'd never be *Day*. Or whose *Hands* thou might'st come into.

Thou must Answer likewise for calling the *Abdication* of the late *K. James*, a *Depositing* of him, and *Divesting* him of all his *Regalities*, and making him a *Fugitive* on the *Earth*. As thou do'st in

thy *Observator*, Vol. 2. N. 89. Whereas, to *Avoid* all these *Odious Imputations*, and the *Breach* of our *Laws*, which allow not of *Deposing* our *Kings*, the *Wisdom* of the *Convention* found out the *Abdication*. And thou, like a *Blockhead*, Mak'st them all one. Thott a *Vindicator of the Revolution*! Thou mak'st the *Revolution* as *Black* as the 30th of *January*. In which thou do'st *Rejoyce*, and *Compar'st* them together, as *Equally Glorious Acts*. *Did our Fore-Fathers* (say'st thou) *De-Truncat the Father*? *Did not we Depose the Son*? *And may not* future *Ages* examine the *Difference* betwixt the *De-Collation*, and the *Abdication*? Is this a *Vindicating* of the *Revolution*? If Great *Stress* had not been laid upon the *Vacancy* of the *Throne*, and the *Abdication* (to *Avoid the Odium of a Deposition*) these *Words* had not Endur'd such *Tough Debates*. And thou now givest them up, after thy Master *Julian Johnson*, who wou'd have it an *Ab-Renunciation*. And made a *Fool* of that too.

Obj. And thou'l make a *Fool* of me too, if I have been Writing all this while against the *Revolution*.

Country-m. Most certainly, Sir, you have been in the wrong *Box*. You have been Writing for your *Old Puss* a *Common-Wealth*. And either *Willfully* or *Ignorantly* Mistook the Point of the *Revolution*. And Compard'st to *Forty-One*, even to *Forty-Eight*.

Obj. I hope they'll put it upon my *Ignorance*. For who can think, That I could otherwise have been so Cursedly *Impudent*, as to Justify the *De-Collation* of the *Queen's Royal Grand-Father*; the *Deposition* (as I call it) of her *Father*, and making him a *Fugitive* upon the *Earth*, like *Cain*, to set up the *Deposing Doctrine*, and *Power* of the *People* to do the same by his *Daughter*; And, in order to it, to *Blacken* her *Ministry*, openly and above-board, to all the *Nation*: Besides running my self into a *Direct Premunire* by the Statute 13 Car. 2. chap. 1. to set up a *Legislative* in the *Nation* without the *King*. And, which Grieves me more than all this, to Cast such an *Eternal Blot* upon my *Dear and Immortal King William*, as to make him the *Author* of all this; and just a *Counter-Part* to our *Glorious and Immortal Oliver*. I.

I profess I thought the *Revolution* had proceeded upon the same *Principles* of *Forty-One*. And that no one cou'd have found *Fault* with the *One*, without *Condemning* of the *Other*. I never thought of *Abdication*, or did not *Understand* it. But hereafter, I'll learn to *Understand*, before I Write.

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